

10/24/62
9:00 am

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The meeting was suspended at 10.35 a.m., and resumed at 10.40 a.m.

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(69)

Mr. SOGA RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela) (interpretation from Spanish): The present meeting of the Security Council, convened at one of the most dramatic moments, a moment fraught with danger for humanity, forces us to face up to the problem before us with all the serenity and calm required by the grave risk confronting us. It has been proved that the Soviet Union has set up in Cuba rocket bases that might deliver nuclear missiles to about 1,000 miles distance, and that, apparently, it is at present setting up others for rockets with a range of up to 2,200 miles. These sites have been built and equipped while, at the same time, both Cuba and the Soviet Union have been stating that Cuba's intentions were purely defensive and not offensive. This has caused a great deal of consternation and created an atmosphere of insecurity and concern in the countries of the American hemisphere which feel themselves directly threatened by such weapons.

Peace is at stake and, with peace, the very survival of mankind on earth. The balance of terror -- as this armed peace under which we live has been called -- is about to be shattered on our American continent, and it is therefore our inescapable duty to avoid this shattering of peace if we want to avoid the great tragedy which terrifies us all.

So far the more or less precarious balance between the two great blocs had been maintained. The Soviet action in Cuba has modified it. Cuba -- transformed from one day to the next into an armed Power with the most murderous offensive weapons, nuclear bombs and rockets -- has become a source of trouble and disquiet for all the other members of the American continent. The weapons that Cuba possesses are no longer defensive but offensive, and they are of a magnitude that might be sufficient to wipe out any of the American Republics and drag the world into the holocaust of a nuclear war.

The members of this Council are fully aware of the existence of the tense situation that obtains between Cuba and the other Latin American republics, especially those of the Caribbean area. The communist regime set up in Cuba is not satisfied to limit itself to its own frontiers, but has tried to export its

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(Mr. Sosa Rodriguez, Venezuela)

system to other nations ~~of the continent~~, and proof of this lies in the constant incitement by Cuban broadcasting stations of the peoples of other Latin American republics to overthrow their governments, in the Cuban agents and propaganda to be found in the other republics and in the clandestine introduction of weapons to equip guerrilla forces in those republics.

If all of this in itself is already a threat to the stability and peace of the nations of this hemisphere, then an even greater danger to that peace is the fact that now the country which has undertaken such activities possesses nuclear missiles that might annihilate any of our countries. The possession of such weapons by Cuba undoubtedly constitutes a threat to the peace and security of the rest of the continent.

This serious concern on the part of the countries of the American hemisphere has become manifest in the resolution adopted yesterday in the Organization of American States, a resolution approved by eighteen Latin American nations, including the three Latin American countries with the greatest area and the largest populations -- Argentina, Brazil and Mexico. In that resolution the Latin American countries call for the dismantling of the missiles sites set up in Cuba, and recommend to the member States of the Organization of American States that, in accordance with articles 6 and 8 of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance of Rio de Janeiro, they take all measures, individually and collectively, including the use of military measures, which they may deem necessary to ensure that the Government of Cuba cannot continue to receive military material that might threaten peace and security in the continent.

Therefore, when I say that we are seriously alarmed by the existence in Cuba of rocket sites and by the stockpiling in Cuba of nuclear weapons, and that we wish this state of affairs to cease, I am not speaking merely for Venezuela. I am speaking on behalf of the other countries -- Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Argentina. To sum up, I am speaking on behalf of the entire American continent. I believe that the opinion and voice of an entire continent should be heard -- the opinion and voice of countries that deeply cherish peace, that have always defended the principles of the United Nations Charter, that have always striven against colonialism; that have constantly defended the cause of the weak

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DE LAS (Jose Rodriguez, Venezuela)

and that have always supported the suspension of nuclear tests and disarmament. I believe that the opinion and the voice of an entire continent should be listened to at the United Nations and should lead to serious consideration and reflection.

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(Mrs. Sosa-Rodriguez, Venezuela)

We consider that ~~it is imperative that~~ the Security Council take measures to stop nuclear weapons from arriving in Cuba and to have the presently existing bases of nuclear rockets in Cuba dismantled, thus dissipating the grave danger to international peace and security that lies in the fact that nuclear weapons now exist in as agitated a zone as the Caribbean area is today.

We trust that the Soviet Union, which has set up these bases in Cuba, will understand the enormous anxiety that these bases are causing all over the continent and that it will co-operate in trying to do away with this grave danger to peace in our continent. It is enough that these weapons of mass destruction are in the hands of the nuclear Powers themselves; we cannot indifferently allow these weapons to be handed over to the only Communist Government existing in America, so that it may thereby increase its military potential to the point at which, without any discussions or arguments, it can dominate our American Republics or cast the world into a nuclear holocaust.

My delegation and Government hope that wisdom and the spirit of understanding will prevail and that the two greatest nuclear Powers in the world, the Soviet Union and the United States of America, will find a solution to the grave crisis at present confronting us and will restore peace and tranquillity to the world.